

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1-24 (Canceled).

25 (Currently amended). A method of using disposable novelty sports apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to relieve frustration and stress comprising the steps:

providing disposable novelty sports apparatus having a shaft, the shaft comprising a resilient polymer material and an annular score line;

grasping an end of a shaft with a hand on one side of the score line;

holding a second end of the shaft with a second hand on an opposite side of the score line;

bending the shaft along an arc of curvature that includes ~~about~~ the score line to a range of bend angles, not to exceed a predetermined maximum bend angle;

returning the shaft to a normal position;

releasing the first and second ends of the shaft.

26 (Currently amended). A method of permanently breaking disposable novelty sports apparatus in a dramatic and humorous way to relieve frustration and stress comprising the steps:

providing disposable novelty sports apparatus having a shaft, the shaft comprising a resilient polymer material and an annular score line ;

grasping an end of a shaft with one hand on one side of the score line;

holding a second end of the shaft with another hand on an opposite side of the score line;

bending the shaft along an arc of curvature that includes ~~about~~ the score line through a predetermined range of bend angles;

flexing the shaft beyond a predetermined maximum bend angle;

breaking the shaft at the score line.

27 (Previously amended). A method according to Claim 26 further including the step of disposing of the broken shaft.

28 (New). A method as in claim 25

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

29 (New). A method as in claim 26

wherein the maximum bend angle is about 45 degrees.

30 (New). A method as in claim 25

wherein the annular score line does not sever the shaft.

31 (New). A method as in claim 26

wherein the annular score line does not sever the shaft.

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